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The Montana Office of Public Instruction's newly designed website provides "one click" access to programs and services offered by OPI. The homepage features News Headlines, an advanced search engine and tabs to our most frequented sites.

Programs & Services of OPI:  
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The Programs and Services dropdown menu allows users to view an alphabetic listing and to easily retrieve information about specific programs, find program contact information, and download relevant files.

## Streaming Video Imagine...



- Going to any school in Montana, any time, day or night - on a moment's notice.
- Delivering a live keynote address in Billings without walking out of your office.
- A series of lesson (video or audio) plans that play much like a television or radio station.

QuickTime streaming offers just that!

We configured a QuickTime video streaming server with enough capacity to stream thousands of hours of video and audio content to Montana's K-12 schools.

Streaming is the process of sending media over a network for viewing in real time. Streams can originate from a live source, such as a video camera, a webcast, or an audio feed. In either case, you aren't downloading a file when you stream a movie. The data is simply being displayed as it arrives by the QuickTime Player; no copy remains on the viewer's hard disk.



## Get Answers

OPI's Knowledge DataBase allows OPI to provide solutions for customer questions and concerns quickly and accurately.

This is a dynamic knowledge base of FAQs and responses to customer inquiries. We provide our customers with a self-serve feature where they get answers to their questions quickly, letting us track issues that matter most to them.

Customers who have questions usually receive a response within 24 hours during the work week.

## Employment

The Montana Jobs for Teachers web page provides a valuable resource for schools and educators. Schools can post their job openings, view online resumes, subscribe to the Applicant Notification Service and, if they have subscribed - at no cost, search the online application pool. When a school posts a job opening, the listing will appear on the website and will be e-mailed to over 1,300 subscribers on our mailing list.

From the Montana Jobs for Teachers site, educators can submit an online application for employment, search the job listings, view all job listings and subscribe to the Job Notification Service. The online application form allows educators to fill in the form once, update it whenever they want, and have it available online for schools to view or print. When educators enlist with the Job Notification Service, they receive an e-mail each time a new job is posted.

## Educator Licensure

Approximately 6,000 licenses are issued by the Educator Licensure unit each year, and there are over 26,000 educators with active licenses. The Educator Licensure page provides information necessary for educators to apply for Montana licensure, as well as the forms necessary to renew current licenses.

Recent changes made by the Board of Public Education to the Educator Licensure rules are highlighted, and there is a "one-stop shopping" section directed toward teachers from out-of-state to simplify the process of obtaining a Montana license. There are links to the Northern Plains Transition to Teaching, which is a new program designed to recruit highly qualified professionals into the classroom, as well as links to Teacher Education programs and Renewal Unit guidelines.



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## **IRIS** Internet Reporting and Information Service

IRIS provides a secure link to OPI databases where schools, districts and cooperatives can directly report non-fiscal data. Each entity has a user ID and password assigned by OPI to ensure privacy. Data is verified at the point of entry so corrections can be made on the spot rather than waiting for a series of phone calls or letters. The result is faster and more accurate data collection and reporting. We are currently collecting data for Accreditation and Special Education Child Count, as well as Dropout, Limited English Proficient and Gifted student statistics.

### **Reports**

IRIS Reports are a series of customizable reports linked to current non-fiscal data. The School Directory reports contain administrator names and contact information (phone, fax, e-mail, mailing addresses) for counties, systems, districts, and schools. The user can select just one entity to view or see results for the entire state. Once a report has been customized, the user can create a spreadsheet and save it to a local computer.

Schools and districts preparing their Five-Year Plans find the Assessment data reports particularly useful. County, district, school, grade, subject and other disaggregation options can be selected to customize Assessment reports. To protect privacy, no results will be reported where the count of test takers is less than six. These reports also have the option to create an Excel spreadsheet, which can be saved to a local computer.



## Advanced Searching

OPI uses Phantom, an advanced web site indexing and search engine. Running on our web server, Phantom makes it possible for users to search OPI's site or even other sites such as the Montana Code Annotated and current Montana Legislature. Phantom supports indexing thousands of documents in a variety of formats including text, HTML and PDF. Users of our web site can perform searches using simple queries that will return targeted, meaningful results.

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**Get Answers**

If you have questions about the OPI web site or METNET, please contact the Internet Services Staff.

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## **METNET**

The Montana Legislature established the Montana Educational Telecommunications Network (METNET) in 1989 "to support education, economic development and government services in the state." METNET is an easy to use communication system which allows users to send and receive e-mail, share files, and use electronic conferencing to exchange ideas.

### METNET provides:

- Free private e-mail to Montana educators and school personnel
- Information on education conferences and meetings
- Education news
- School budget and expenditure information
- Grant and scholarship information for students and teachers
- Access to Montana education associations
- Curriculum conference areas
- Teacher placement information
- School law information
- Extensive list of educational web sites
- Discount information on computer hardware and software for Montana schools



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